Conference on "some priority issues of Environmental Protection?'

343. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRA-KANT BHANDARE: SHRI MAHENDRA [PRASAD:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a two-day conference on "Some Priority Issues of Environmental Protection" was held on the 17th and 18th September 1990. at New Delhi;

(b) if so, what issues were identified at the Conference to contain environmental degradation; and

(c) what strategy was evolved to tackle the same effectively and what programmes have been laid down and taken up by Government in the light thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SMT. MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The issues identified for discussion at the Conference were (1) Biodegradable substitutes for Agro-Chemicals and Fertilizers (2) Enhancing the Productivity of Wastelands (3) Environmental Problems of Mining (4) Management and Disposal of Hazardous Chemicals and (5) Energy Alternatives for India. The Conference discussed the nature and intensity of the priority issues of environmental protection in identified areas and analysed the legal, institutional and scientific aspects to evolve an integrated perspective in these areas. The recommendations of the Conference have provided an input to various policies of Government, and have helped in framing India's stand on key environmental issues in the international fora.

Improvement in DTC Bus Services

344. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANS PORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that increase in DTC fares, increase in DTC fleet and rationalisation of DTC routes can go a long way in saving fuel by the people and giving respite to the DTC and commuters;

(b) if so, what action Government have taken/propose to take in these matters;

(c) the time by when Government propose to review the present policy of "earn and keep" of DTC vis-a-vis private buses under its operation so as to attract more private buses for public transport; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to streamline the administration and management of DTC and to check pilferage in DTC?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA-(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Proposal for revision of DTC fare is under consideration Of the Government. Further, during the year 1990-91, in addition to the sanction given !o DTc for purchase of 506 buses on ' replacement account, proposal for procurement of additional 34 buses under replacement account is also under consideration_ The rationalisation of DTc routes is a continuous process and is consistently reviewed by the Management of DTC.

(c) Review of the ore-lent policy of "earn and keep" of DTC vis-a-vis private buses can be undertaken only after DTC fane structures are revised.

(d) Government continuously review the administration and management of DTC with a view to streamlining the same and to check pilferage in DTC.

Mobile Checking Staff of D.T.C.

345. SHRI ANAND PRAKASH GAUTAM: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the behaviour of the mobile checking staff of the Delhi Transport Corporation towards commuters is very rough and unpleasant;

(b) if so, what action Government have taken against the erring staff in the recent past;

(c) whether Government propose to is sue necessary instructions to the mobile checking staff to behave properly with the commuters; particularly with ciders; and